

## **North-Central *Build Wisconsin* Regional Workshop Small Group Record**

Small Group RED (color)

Facilitator Arlan

### **Top 10 responses to the question: “What can the State do to foster economic growth in your region?”**

Priority response #1 (votes: 6 ) Pooling system for employee benefits.

Priority response #2 (votes: 5 ) Easier access state highway system.

Priority response #3 (votes: 3 ) Invest in business/education partnerships.

Priority response #4 (votes: 3 ) Implement Kettl Commission—incentives for inter government cooperation.

Priority response #5 (votes: 2 ) More funding Federal funds, CDBG, PF, tea dollars for infrastructure, land, etc, for business growth.

Priority response #6 (votes: 2 ) Distribution of funding regionally rather than population.

Priority response #7 (votes: 2 ) Less red tape for permits, licensing, zoning, etc.

### **“Actions Necessary to Achieve our Ideas” Exercise**

“If we want to accomplish this [priority issue #1], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

#### **Priority Issue #1      Pooling system for employee benefits.**

Responses to the question: “If we want to accomplish this [priority issue], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

- \*Expand Badgercare for businesses 1-10 employees and covers.
- \*State facilitated “co-op” of business for benefits.
- \*Determine categories of insurance need/risk.
- \*State sponsored employee benefit co-op.
- \*Determine potential funding sources.
- \*Regional pool workforce to provide “fill in” for vacations.
- \*Simplify and reduce cost of implementing pre-tax plans.
- \*Entire benefit package cooperative—life/medical/savings/retirement.

**Priority Issue #2      Invest in business/education partnerships including articulation incentives and technology transfer incentives that promote high tech/ high wage jobs.**

- \*Tech education credits transfer to 4 year degree programs.
- \*Implement performance based budgeting of economic development dollars.
- \*Start up funding for companies to engage in technology transfer.
- \*Job shadowing/internships/apprenticeships.
- \*Offer skill sets needs for job positions to any/all possible employee—and as a reference to educational systems.
- \*Implement skill assessments.
- \*Implementation of tech zones.
- \*Increase funding to UW system and tech college programs that have the highest potential for creating the maximum number of highway jobs—based on employers surveys.
- \*Tax credit (incentive) on student loans for staying in Wisconsin.
- \*Reward partnerships that get results.
- \*Continue incentive for articulated programs among educational systems.

**Priority Issue #3      Easier access onto the state highway system and continue highway development.**

- \*Plan and build more interchanges on major highways.
- \*Rebuild Marquette interchange in Milwaukee without impacting other priority projects.
- \*Complete highway SI project.
- \*Improve east-west highway in Northern Wisconsin.
- \*Improve the information highway in Northern Wisconsin.
- \*Quality road work so it can accommodate truck traffic and help tourist traffic.
- \*Longer life cycle design.
- \*Change rule so there can be more access (driveway) onto state highway.